

WEEKEND READING FOR THE PRESIDENT

11 - 12 July 1970

REFER TO DOS

Table of ContentsMIDDLE EAST

1. Shlomo Avineri, "The Palestinians and Israel,"
Commentary, June 1970.

A very thoughtful piece by an Israeli professor of political science on the new significance of the Palestinians in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Their emergence, he says, shows that the basic conflict is not between the Great Powers, or between ideologies, or even between local states as such; it is a conflict between two movements for national liberation. He speculates that a Palestinian takeover in Jordan, or the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza, might partially satisfy the Palestinian aspiration for a national identity. (14 pp.)

2. Amnon Kapeliouk, "How Is It All Going to End? -- Israel Three Years After the Six-Day War," Le Monde (Weekly Selection), June 10, 1970.

A Le Monde writer observes the increasingly pessimistic mood of Israeli public opinion. Israeli students demonstrated with unprecedented vigor against the Government's handling of the Nahum Goldmann affair; other Israelis are disturbed that the Arabs seem to be receiving more support from the outside world than is Israel; most Israelis are disillusioned and pessimistic about the prospects for peace. (3 pp.)

3. John P. Roche, "Europe Fears U.S. Role in Israel Poses War Peril Involving NATO," The Washington Post, June 17, 1970.

Professor Roche notes that our European allies seem to find the US commitment to Israel more disturbing than our activities in Southeast Asia. The danger of US-Soviet confrontation scares them; because Soviet intransigence is taken for granted, some Europeans feel that general war can be headed off only by putting pressure on the US. European leftists hope (just as the Israelis fear) that the US Senate's efforts to cripple the power of the President will weaken US policy in the Middle East. (1 p.)

DOS reviewed. Unclassified. Release in full

-2-

AFRICA

4. Robert Pledge, "France at War in Africa," Africa Report, June 1970.

A reasonably accurate journalistic account of the current state of the French military intervention in Chad. The French regard Chad as strategic to their position in Africa, and now have 3500 troops, including Foreign Legionnaires, assisting the Chad army and security forces in combatting the guerrilla rebellion in the Muslim north. (4 pp.)

5. Graham Hovey, "Underrated Gowon Leads Nigeria toward Reconciliation," New York Times, June 15, 1970; and "Rebuilding the Ibo Homeland after Biafra's Collapse," New York Times, June 8, 1970.

Two brief articles by a member of the Times editorial board on aspects of Nigeria's postwar political reconstruction. The 35-year-old General Yakubu Gowon, "possibly the most underrated leader in black Africa" in the writer's estimation, has impressed many former Biafrans as able, determined, and fair. The Ibo homeland, now known as the East-Central State, is getting back on its feet again. (2 pp.)

U.S. ALLIANCE POLICY

6. David Fromkin, "Entangling Alliances," Foreign Affairs, July 1970.

The concluding sections of an interesting theoretical piece on the legal and political significance of formal treaties of alliance, by a lawyer who formerly served as consultant to Vice President Humphrey. The US usually seeks to deter by making its intentions clear, but treaty pledges are too vague and general to be suited to this purpose. The Nixon Doctrine's new principles of selectivity make it even more essential to find an effective way of communicating current policy intentions emphatically when necessary; we should rely not on treaties but on timely political acts like diplomatic notes, Presidential statements, and Senate resolutions. (7 pp.)